(c) which are the units of ITI which are making profit and which are the units loosing; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to place adequate orders by DoT and to save the Industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) ITI has incurred losses during the last three years. The main reasons for losses incurred by the Company are indicated below:

(i) Competition from private vendors, after liberalisation of the telecom sector.

(ii) Interest burden due to commercial borrowing by the company.

(iii) High manpower cost and other overheads.

(b) The total accumulated losses suffered by Ms ITI upto 31st March, 1997 are Rs. 411.51 crores as per details given below:

1994-95 — Rs. 81.91 crores
1995-96 — Rs. 283.96 crores
1996-97 — Rs. 45.64 crores (Subject to CAG Audit)

TOTAL Rs. 411.51 crores

As the peak network of the Company got eroded by more than 50% as on 31st March, 1996, a reference was made by the Company to BIFR under Section 23 of the Sick Industrial Companies Act 1985, in November'96.

(c) As per the unaudited results for the year 1996-97, Bangalore, Naini, Rae Bareli, Srinagar, Electronic City Unit, Bangalore and Network Systems Unit, Bangalore have incurred losses while Palakad and Mankapur Units have earned profit.

(d) DoT has reserved 15% to 30% of its orders outside the tender exclusively for ITI. In addition, the Company can secure more orders by participating in the tenders floated by the DoT. To help the Company, a policy of advance payments upto 75% of the value of the purchase orders is being followed by the DoT. 'Due to the above measures and certain other steps taken by the DoT like waival of liquidated damages, compensation for the losses incurred by the Srinagar Unit and Govt. guarantee for the bonds floated by the ITI during last year, the Company has shown marked improvement in its performance during the year 1996-97 as compared to the year 1995-96.

Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

1553. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Gujarat as on date, district-wise;

(b) existing capacity of each of these exchanges;

(c) whether there is any proposal before Government to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in the State and to establish new exchanges in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Integrated Services Digital Network

1554. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of the MTNL has recently admitted that

performance of recently launched Integrated Services Digital Network is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such poor performance of ISDN;

(c) the total investment made by Government so far for introducing ISDN; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to remove bottlenecks in the functioning of ISDN and to made it functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. The CMD, MTNL has said that the number of subscribers registered for provision of ISDN service is not large, in other words the damand for ISDN is not picking up.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Investment made in MTNL: Delhi: Rs. 3.36 crore (approx.) Mumbai: Rs. 71.20 lakhs (approx.)

(d) The following efforts are being made to provide the service further:

(i) Opening of more international routes. Already international access on ISDN has been opened to 5 Countries viz., USA, UK, Germany, Japan and Singapore.

(ii) Internet access on ISDN.

(iii) Providing ISDN connection on priority.

Capacity of Kurebhar Telephone Exchange in Sultanpur

1555. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kurebhar telephone exchange in Sultanpur district of U.P. is running at its optimum capacity and there is a persistent demand of enhancing the line capacity of the exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the capacity of the exchange to clear the pending backlog of the villages so as to improve the basic communication network in rural areas; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) At present the Kurebhar exchange is running near to its optimum capacity with 162 working lines and 20 persons are in waiting list.

(c) Yes, Sir, depending on the demand the exchange capacity will be expanded.

(d) Majority of the present waiting list will be cleared in next two month's time from the existing capacity of the exchnage.

लोनी क्षेत्र के गांवों में डाक वितरण

1556. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** :
प्रो0 राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के गाजियाबाद जनपद के अंतर्गत लोनी क्षेत्र के गांवो में डाक वितरण व्यवस्था बहुत खराब हालत में हैं और पत्र, तार,मनीआर्डर आदि बहुत देर से वितरित किए जाते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या इस समय लोनी डाकघर में डाक वितरण करने वाले डाकियों की संख्या पर्याप्त नहीं हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार लोनी डाकघर में डाकियों की संख्या बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रही हैं; और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं?